

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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75¢

Thieves target local hotel parking lots

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus hotel parking lots may not be as safe as people think, according to Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department.

Hotel lots throughout the city have been the scenes of car parts thefts during the last six months and those responsible have not been apprehended.

"This has really become a problem with a lot of the hotels down by the airport," said Leacher. "We are still investigating the cases, but we haven't been able to catch anyone yet."

Leacher said that many travelers have been using the parking lots for long-term parking during their absences. While this may seem like a smart move by some savvy travelers looking to save parking fees, when they arrive

home they may have a problem getting their vehicles out of the lots.

"What they (the thieves) are doing is going into the lots and stealing all of the tires and hub caps off of cars," said Leacher. "So, when the owner gets back to their car, it won't be going anywhere soon."

The thefts began back in the summer and have steadily continued, said Leacher.

"We got hit really hard when it first started in the summer," he said.

"Now, they are going in spurts. We will have a couple each day for four days, and then none for three weeks. But they have been so fast in committing the actual crime that we haven't been able to catch them yet."

Leacher credits the sporadic frequency of the thefts to police efforts.

"We did some investigating, followed up some leads

and began surveillance on the lots," he said. "We must have at least deterred them, because that is when they began going in spurts."

Leacher also cautioned travelers that using the hotel lots for long-term parking is illegal.

Leacher said the police department is urging travelers to use the long-term parking lots at the airport for parking their car.

"People think we are trying to push business to the long-term lots, but in fact those facilities are geared towards safeguarding against incidents like these."

Long-term parking lots located at various locations around the airport are fenced and gated and under surveillance, said Leacher.

"Someone can't just walk into one of those lots," he said. "You have a better chance of keeping your car safe at one of those lots, than in the hotel lots."



Holiday cheer

Last week, Mayor Alan Lambert, along with other city officials, delivered holiday food baskets to needy families in the Romulus community. Loretta Brown, pictured with the mayor, was a recipient of one of the baskets, which were donated by UAW Local 845 members who work for Visteon Ford. Paul Haver, United Auto Workers Local 845 president, Lenise Porter, the community liaison and Ray Wisdan, the financial secretary, were among the many who helped collect more than \$3,500 for the baskets.

Magna hopes to finalize agreement with city

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

This time next year, Romulus residents could be eagerly awaiting the opening of a racetrack, Michigan Downs, in Romulus.

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) proposed a \$100 million development on 200-acres that includes a racetrack and clubhouse, and ultimately, a regional retail center and movie theater.

Romulus residents approved the development of the track during a Dec. 2 special election.

Magna representative John Truscott said at that time that Magna estimated that the development would bring about 3,300 jobs to the City of Romulus - 1,200 of those jobs at the racetrack.

Truscott also said the track and retail portion of the project, during a 12-year period, would create \$70 million in tax revenues for Romulus, as well as \$10 million in breakage funds from racetrack revenue and a proposed casino.

Representatives for MEC said they believe that they are far along in the process to receive

planning commission and city council approval for the project.

"We already own the land," said Lorne Kumer, vice-president of real estate for MEC. "We spent \$28 million to purchase it. We have also invested more than \$1 million in plans for the site. We have already made close to a \$30 million commitment to the City of Romulus."

The developer still has a few hurdles to vault before they can develop the 200-acre site near Wick and Vining roads, however.

For example, the company already owns one track - in Fruit Port, MI, near Muskegon - and state law prohibits one company from owning more than one race-track.

Kumer said Magna has many options that they are looking into.

"There is currently a bill that has passed the house and is in the senate that would allow ownership of two tracks at once," he said. "It is our goal to own two tracks, but if that doesn't go through, then we would have to either divest Great Lakes Downs or shut it down."

Proposed casino still awaiting Congressional approval

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Voters in the City of Romulus have had their say about a proposed casino set for their community.

Now, the U.S. Congress will ultimately decide the issue.

Representatives from a Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians approached the city last year about the project, which includes a \$350 million casino, conference center, golf course

and hotel, which representatives for the tribe said they believe would bring an anticipated 17,500 people to Romulus each day.

The casino would have more than 2,500 slot machines and 90 table games. Tribal spokesmen estimate that this casino, which would sit on 40 acres of undisclosed land, would add 3,500 jobs to the city and provide \$6 million in slot revenues each year to Romulus coffers.

Voters approved the concept of a casino in Romulus during a

December special election, but they won't have the final say.

Currently the tribe is awaiting Congressional approval on a land settlement claim put before the U.S. House of Representatives in July by Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn) before they are able to move forward in the process.

"We cannot move forward without that approval," said Steve Mitchell, a representative for the Chippewa Indians. "Once we get that approval we will start dig-

ging the dirt."

Until then, the tribe will be doing everything in their power to assure that the bill will successfully pass through the Congress.

"The tribe has a lot of good lobbyists working hard to get this bill passed," said Mitchell. "We also have the strong support of Congressman Dingell and although he is in the minority party, that means something in Washington."

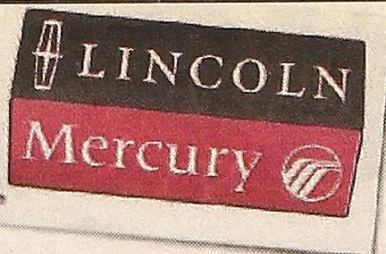
Dingell said he believes he can provide the approval of

Congress if the casino is approved by Romulus residents.

This is a drastically different view from that of U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Brighton) who announced in November that House Majority Leader Tom Delay (R-Texas) had promised him that this bill would never be approved, a claim that has not been verified by Delay.

"He (Rogers) has weighed in heavily on this issue before," said

See Casino, page 3



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Romulus police enhance rapid response resources

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus police made several improvements in the rapid response abilities of the department in 2003, according to Lt. John Leacher.

"We have made major improvements in our department over the last year," he said. "One of the most important being our capability to respond to serious situations."

The department recently purchased four additional Colt AR-15 high-powered military rifles at a cost of \$4,678 with the approval of city council, to add to the eight they already possess.

"These weapons are very accurate and high velocity, so they can be used from a distance, said Leacher. "They are the weapon of choice for S.W.A.T. teams all over the country."

Officers are required to take a two-day course familiarizing them with the weapon. They go through several shooting exercises and required to complete a qualifica-

tion course in order to carry the weapon while on patrol.

"Right now, these rifles are on the road with our officers 24/7," said Leacher.

This is the next step, according to Leacher in forming a rapid response team in Romulus. Currently, Romulus works with downriver communities to form a S.W.A.T. team. Each city contributes a few officers to the team.

"If we had a serious situation, like a Columbine, it would take 45 minutes to just assemble the S.W.A.T. team," said Leacher. "That isn't even getting them on the scene."

Having officers trained in the use of the new rifles allows Romulus to be better prepared in case such an event ever happens in the community, Leacher said.

"If our officers are trained, it allows are response time to be much quicker, even if it is only to contain the situation," he said. "We have to be prepared for the worst situation and we have to be able to protect our kids."

As an added benefit, possessing these rifles helps with the department readiness in matters of Homeland Security.

"We have to remember that Romulus encompasses Metro Airport and there are many hotels and in the future could be establishments that hold thousands and thousands of people," said Leacher. "This could make us a target in the future. We will be better prepared with this training"

Romulus has been sending officers to rapid response training during the last six months to better prepare them in case of an emergency, like a barricaded gunman or a terrorist attack, said Leacher.

"I would have to say that at least 2/3 of our officers are now trained in rapid response techniques," he said. "This allows us to keep the people of Romulus safe if a situation were to take place. That is our main goal."

Leacher said the department was also proud of the citizens and business owners in Romulus this year.

"We have been able to solve many cases just from tips this year," he said. "Without all the help from the residents of Romulus that would not have been possible. We are only as good as the people who help us in the community."



Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst proudly shows off the new fountain in the courtyard at the school. The courtyard also now features a gazebo and other newly landscaped features following renovations in 2003.

Romulus schools receive high marks in 2003

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus schools have had a great year and are looking forward to 2004, according to Dick Kruse, public relations director for the district.

"We have had a number of distinctions this year," he said. "We are very proud of the way our schools are doing."

North Central Association (NCA) accorded the Romulus schools the highest national scores on an NCA review last spring.

The scores were for the second year of a five-year evaluation period. The Romulus school district was among the first group districts in the nation to receive the five-year NCA Transitions Accreditation in 2001.

The district has also concluded the 1999 \$34 million bond program. Many additional projects were completed during this, the last year. The new state-of-the-art infilled synthetic athletic field will allow the district to host football, soccer

and lacrosse matches, even under the worst weather conditions. New visitor side bleachers were also added to the stadium. A new sound system was added to the Romulus High School auditorium, as was extensive classroom and hallway carpeting throughout the district.

At Romulus Middle School, there were locker and sidewalk restoration projects that were completed and security cameras were installed at all district buildings.

The school also added 12 new school buses to the fleet.

"We got a lot done with that bond," said Kruse. "We definitely improved the entire district with it."

Romulus schools also partnered with Western Michigan University this year to implement an \$112,000 teacher-mentoring grant.

The grant will study and provide expertise to both new Romulus teachers and their teacher mentors.

Western Michigan will use the observations and input

from this program to improve the school of education delivery systems.

Romulus schools also won a competitive Reading First Grant for kindergarten through third grade. The grant of \$864,000 for the 2003-2004 school year will fund literacy coaches for each elementary school, substitute teachers to cover staff in-service training and specialized reading textbooks.

Forty-one Romulus High School Class of 2003 students won the \$2,5000 scholarship offered by the Michigan Department of Education for superior MEAP scores.

To receive these scholarships, students are required to score in high in level one or level two on the mathematics, reading, writing and science tests, which were administered during their junior and senior years.

"It has been a great year," said Kruse. "We are very proud of our students and teachers and are looking forward to another year of improvements."

2003 was landmark year for development in Romulus

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The year 2003 was a landmark for development in the City of Romulus. Whether new commercial development, additions to existing facilities or new residential development, Romulus is definitely growing, according to city officials.

The largest of those new projects, Metro World Centre, was approved recently by the Romulus City Council and planning commission. A 556-acre development, it will be located on the west side of Vining Road between I-94 and Ecorse. The property will be used as a mixed-use space with the potential to bring retail space, offices, high-tech industry and inside entertainment to Romulus, according to City Planner Cynthia Lyons.

The application is also under review for Michigan Downs, a 212-acre horseracing venue.

New commercial developments will also include a shopping center near Van Born and Wayne roads, a new car wash and a new dollar store, according to Lyons.

Sorrentino Shopping Center

will soon be under construction on Van Born, just west of Wayne Road. This 21,565 square foot center will be able to accommodate a number of different businesses in Romulus, she said.

"We don't know how many businesses will be in the strip mall yet," she said. "It all depends on how they split up the square footage. It is still speculative."

The 8,000 square foot Family Dollar store located on Wayne Road, south of Ecorse. The car wash, a 2,255-square-foot facility, will be located on Northline and will include three self-serve bays and one automatic bay.

New residential development boomed in Romulus during 2003, as well. There are currently two major residential projects already under way, Avalon Meadows and The Farms 2.

Avalon Meadows sits on the west side of Wayne Road and the south side of Ecorse. At the end of construction there will be 178 units ranging in price from \$150,000 to \$180,000.

The Farms 2, an addition to the existing The Farms community will create nine new units priced from \$160,000 to \$220,000.

Improvements made by public works

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The City of Romulus has seen many improvements in the public works department (DPW) in 2003.

One of the most important improvements was the replacement of approximately 2,500 feet of undersized water main along the shoulder of Ball Road, said Carl Brooks, director of the Romulus DPW.

"This was probably the most important project we had this year," said Brooks. "The old main used to break down a lot and was costing the city a lot of money in repairs. Also, we were able to eliminate a lot of dead water lines, which is always a good thing."

Approximately 700 feet of

deficient water main that was prone to breaks was also replaced on Fourth Street. Shattered concrete pavement on the boulevard was reconstructed as well.

On Huron River Drive, 3,000 feet of piping was installed to provide public sanitary service to residents currently on the septic system. New concrete pavement was also placed along the length of the sewer.

"We made it possible for about 20-25 homes to get our public sanitary service," said Brooks. "That is great, because we try to eliminate septic tanks whenever we can."

A 3-mile stretch of road surface was improved along Huron River Drive, with the State of Michigan paying for 80 percent of the project.

Casino

FROM PAGE 1

Sylvia Warner, spokesperson for Rogers. "He understands what happens when you begin to depend on gambling for econom-

ic development."

When asked if two congressman, Rogers and Delay, could stop this bill regardless of the outcome of the Dec 2. city vote, Warner replied, "Yes, it happens all the time. The vote is simply an advisory vote, the Congress will

have the final say in the matter."

If the bill does not receive Congressional approval, the bill could be introduced again.

"I can promise you that it will be introduced again, if it doesn't receive approval," said Mitchell. "And then again if need be."

OBITUARIES

ZAREMSKI, Max

Max Zaremski, 84, a life-long resident of Romulus, died Dec. 18.

Among his survivors are more than 100 nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Zarmeski were at St. Anthony Catholic Church, where he was a member, with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

BROOKS, James C.

James C. Brooks, 85, of Tennessee, formerly of Highland Park, died Dec. 17 in Ann Arbor.

Among his survivors are his children, James W. (Nellie) Brooks of Clinton Township, Patricia (Edward) Luchi of Belleville and William B. (Pusun) Brooks of Ann Arbor; sister, Jennie Miller of New Port Richey, FL; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at St. Anthony Catholic Church with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

CLARK, Jeanne A.

Jeanne A. Clark, 77, of Belleville, died Dec. 19.

Among her survivors are her children,

Ronald (Shirley) Clark of Allen, TX, Donald (Diane) Clark of Belleville, Robert Clark of Panama City, FL., Darlene (Marc) Gordon of Arlington Heights, IL, Darryl (Zola) Clark) of Manchester, Reia Clark of Brighton, Pamala (Phillip) Serens of Romulus and Lowell Clark of Belleville; a sister, Frances Cothern of Belleville; a brother, Wayne Hartman of AuGres; 16 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Clark was a member of the Order of Eastern Star of Belleville.

Funeral services ere at the First United Methodist Church in Belleville where Mrs. Clark was a member, with the Rev. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

FRANKLIN, Dennis Lee

Dennis Lee "Dinger" Franklin, 60, of Belleville, died Dec. 22.

Among his survivors are his wife, Linda F. (Hudelston) Franklin; a son, Dennis "Deno" (Debbie) Franklin, Jr. of Wayne; daughters, Theresa F. (Chuck) Dunn of Whitmore Lake, Mona L. Quesada of Detroit and Deanna E. (Brian) Barber of Austin, TX; brothers, Lawrence L. Franklin of Gibraltar and Lloyd V. Franklin of Monroe; sister, Jane G. (Greg) Richardson of Gibraltar, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Franklin was a member of the International Operation Engineers Local 324 and the National Hot Rod

Association.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus with the Rev. Roger Wright of Romulus Wesleyan Church officiating.

CASH, Nancy Ann Ridley

Nancy Ann Ridley Cash, 78, a long-time resident of Belleville, died Dec. 13.

Among her survivors are her daughters, Johanne Carol (Owen) Walters of Canton Township and Laura Belle (Gordon) Solberg of Las Cruces, NM; grandch:ldren, Matthew Scott (Brandy)

Walters, Shawn Nicholas (Dr. Lisa) Walters, Kristianne Marie (Jerome) Rork, Sarah Catherine Walters and Neil Alan Solbert; great-grandchildren, Emma Taft Walters, Noah Thomas Ridley Walters and Alyse Lillie-Mae Rork, and eight nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Cash was a retired elementary school teacher and social worker. She graduatd from the University of Michigan in 1947 and received her masters degree from Wayne State University in 1960.

A memorial service was at Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville.

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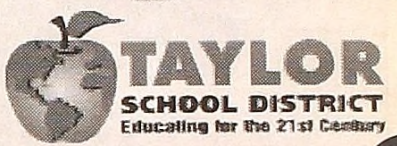
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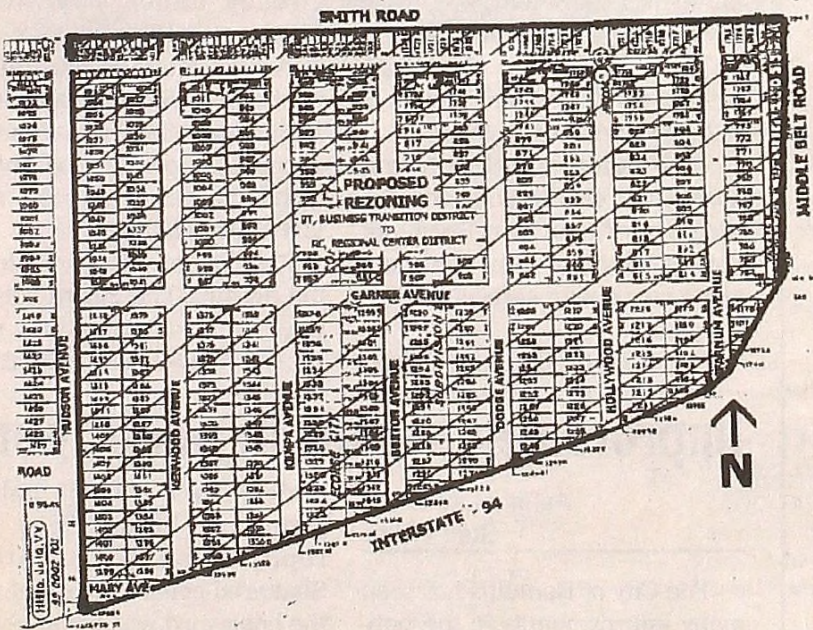


Taylor School District 23033 Northline Road • Taylor, MI 48180

CITY OF ROMULUS
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 1921, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, for the purpose of considering, a proposed Amendment to the Zoning Map. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to rezone approximately 54.188+- acres of land located between Smith Road and I-94 and Middlebelt and Hudson from BT, Business Transitional to RC, Regional Center. DP#’s:



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Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 21, 2004, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 1111Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus MOAB

Publish: December 31, 2003

OPINION

The time is now

Each and every one of us should do something within the next few days.

We should all take up a cause.

It doesn't have to be an immediate thing; there is no urgency that requires us to drop whatever we may be doing, postpone vacations or interrupt our regular daily activities.

It can be a gradual course of action, a slow change sparked by a realization of what the previous year has brought to us, and what the New Year may hold.

It's the perfect time for such reflections, too. Many of us are already in the frame of mind after the holiday season. We've talked with family members we haven't seen since the last seasonal get-together, got caught up on all the news, had a chance to spread some cheer, do some good or, if nothing else, take some time from our hectic schedules and sat down with friends to discuss the finer points in life.

Some of us will look back at 2003 with a sense of satisfaction, ticking off goals made and projects achieved, the impact we've had, the people we've helped. Others will lament another year gone by the wayside and vow to make improvements in themselves and their surroundings.

These are often called resolutions, the promises we make to ourselves at the beginning of the year that so often are forgotten as life gears up to its normal frenetic pace.

During the holiday season, it's difficult to turn anywhere and not hear about what some group or another is doing for those in need. There are groups like the Goodfellows, whose annual goal is to provide Christmas cheer, in the form of food, clothing and toy donations to needy families, the Salvation Army, whose bell-ringers are a regular sight throughout the month of December. Organizations and groups that give to shelters for the homeless, donate time to provide food and conversation for disadvantaged people. It's traditionally a time of giving and give we do, in great quantities. As we're running about purchasing gifts for our friends and loved ones, it feels good to give a little extra to those we don't know, we may never meet, but yet are out there. Some of us may use it to justify our expenditures, other may realize how blessed they truly are.

It's easy to remember, at times like these, that there is a lot of need out there. It's sometimes more difficult to realize that the need doesn't go away after the Christmas trees are packed up, the lights taken off houses, the last of the wrapping paper discarded.

There are many causes that we can take up. There are many ways to get involved that don't take up too much time, energy or money. And if more people get involved, the need won't be as great.

We often think about ways we want to improve ourselves in the coming year. We talk about getting back into shape, quitting smoking, making a note to stay in touch with long-distance friends or family members, maybe even simply being more kind to strangers.

That's a good start, too.

But there are other things we can do to get involved and make society better as a whole. It's an election year, for one thing, an opportunity for people to have more say in the way their local needs are met. We can also volunteer time as mentors for troubled youths, spend time at the local YMCA, get involved with churches or the many service groups that help out those in need throughout society.

This year will bring its share of challenges. The economy in Michigan may be poised for a rebound, but it's not there yet. There are people that need help, groups willing to give it and places willing to sponsor it. Let's all pick a cause that we can help out in, whether it's a local youth theater group, a shelter for homeless, or some other worthy effort.

It's only by working together, as individuals and groups, that we can help make our communities a better place.



Striving for perfection

With this column, I'm going to start a new annual tradition.

As I reflect on what I've done during the past year and what I want to do in the one that is about to start, I'm going to talk about the mistakes I've made, in print, during the last year.

Call it the 'coming clean' column.

Mistakes are the bane of anyone that works in the newspaper business, whether it's an advertising person jotting down the wrong phone number, a graphic design person mistyping an address, a misplaced decimal point or other typo, the wrong word in a headline or an omission of fact or point of view.

It's human nature, though. No one is perfect. We get tired, we get rushed, and sometimes mistakes slip through. People tend to hold newspapers at a higher threshold; they don't expect mistakes and oftentimes they don't tolerate even the smallest ones. That's a good thing, though. After all, we are trained in this sort of thing, even though it may not always seem like it.

I know that I, personally, feel each mistake deeply and personally. Words that seem OK to me as we're putting the final touches on the paper before it goes to press scream out at me when I look through the paper on Thursday morning. Every misspelling, improper word choice, misidentification or what have you seems to throb with a life of its own. To me it's a matter of a breach of the public trust. Readers that don't trust you to spell a word right aren't going to trust you when you try to tell them something important. And so every week, I vow to try a little harder, catch a little more, make that upgrade.

Even so, there have been some doozies.

Some of the mistakes fall under the characterization of bad judgment, like putting in one too many pictures of the John Glenn Marching Band in the Wayne Eagle. (Wayne Memorial Band Boosters will tell you, at length, that any picture is one too many).

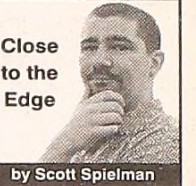
Others have been characterized by a lack of attention, like when I read through a Wayne City Council meeting packet and misread a decimal point on a proposed tax abatement asked for by Ford Motor Co. I thought they planned a \$400,000 investment into their plants in Wayne, not a \$410 million one. Oops. Big difference, there. Sure enough, by the time I tracked down the sources and detailed information about it, the news was in just about every other media outlet around.

Or the recent mistake of giving the wrong name to the wrong person – it is Jason Hallman, not his father, Rick, who works at Jack Demmer Ford, contrary to what my story on their new shop, J.R.R. Cycleworks said last week.

I suppose my favorite mistake – if you have to have a favorite one – came in a column about the Plymouth Goodfellows, when I recounted seeing volunteers standing in the intersection at Ann Arbor Trail and Penniman in downtown Plymouth. If that strikes an odd chord with anyone familiar with Plymouth – or even anyone that visited there – it should.

They don't intersect.

What's more, I should certainly know that since I've covered that community for about five years,



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

See **Perfection**, page 6

Remove the word 'criticism' from your life

A friend and I were talking about the most destructive word in our language. In any language for that matter.

"My daughter and I have been butting heads lately," Jake explained. "She came home the other day and I told her I was unhappy with something she was supposed to do and didn't."

His daughter didn't reply and that agitated him.

"Then, I asked her if she had checked the oil in her car. Telling her— admittedly for the umpteenth time— it was very important or the car engine would blow up."

That did it. Jake's daughter looked at her dad and said, "All you do is criticize me. How do you think that makes me feel?"

Jake said his voice went up a pitch.

"If you'd do what is asked, and do a good job, I wouldn't have to."

Boom, end of communication . . . or attempts at it.

Later, when Jake got back from the store, he told his daughter that he was sorry for raising his voice, that frustration had gotten the best of him.

Jake also explained to her that he was troubled

by her statement that he "always" criticizes her, especially since he felt that he'd always been a strong supporter for her.

... except, he admitted, when she did a poor job at something.

It was an issue that went back to his daughter's childhood. In fact, it went back to Jake's childhood and was affecting both of them.

As a child, his daughter resented being told to do work around the house. Se showed her displeasure by doing a crummy job.

Jake would complain about a poor job—usually tell her to "do it right."

His daughter's developed perception was that Jake was always criticizing her. It fit nicely, because in her mind, being criticized justified doing a poor job, i.e. the rationalization, "I'm gonna be criticized anyway."

Years later, it was still a thorny standoff.

Jake's story reminded me of another:



This is life

by Jerry Stanecki

See **Criticism**, page 6

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LETTERS

Student sends copy of letter written to legislators

To the editor;

I am writing you this letter today with great concern. I'm 22 years old and attending Tinkham Adult Center in Westland. I'm concerned because there have been worries about having adult education cut. I'm fortunate to be given a second chance to obtain my high school diploma. How can you cut education? And why? I have learned so much since attending Tinkham Adult Center. I'm now becoming more and more involved in politics, my

community and my school.

Many of the staff are afraid of losing their jobs. How is making cuts to education solving problems? It will create more. I'm so thankful to be given a second chance. Education is so important. Without an education how can you grow as a person? How can you grow mentally? How can you grow at all? How is cutting education the only solution to balancing the budget? What will it solve? Ask yourself that. Making cuts to education will make the economy worse. People won't have that second chance like I'm having. How is that right? I hope you understand where I'm coming from. I'm concerned because it affects everyone, not just me.

People will lose their jobs and people won't be able to obtain their high school diploma. Please consider my letter and really think hard to yourself and ask others if they have ever received a second chance? I'm sure you have. No one should be denied an education. Please think about what I've written. I'm concerned not only for myself, but for other students for now and for the future. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you consider what I have written to you and give it some thought.

Ryan S. Cramer,
Wayne

Send us your letters

The Journal welcomes all signed letters to the editor and will consider all submissions for publication.

Mail letters to:

The Journal, P.O. Box 578, Wayne, MI 48184. Letters may be edited for content or space and must include a phone number for verification.

Perfection - Mistakes do happen

FROM PAGE 5

now, and I used to live on Penniman Avenue, within spitting distance of that mythical intersection.

There have been others and, despite my best attempts, there will probably be more, too. But my admission of that should not be taken as a surrender to these minor and major lapses in judgment; I will keep up that battle.

As always, readers are an important part of it. I sometimes don't realize my mistakes until you call in and let me know. And while I always appreciate it when someone points them out, I don't always

appreciate the way they do it. Maybe there's a certain glee we feel when we find mistakes made by other people, a certain comfort in knowing that we're not the only imperfect people out there. It often translates into mean-spiritedness, though, as if people are poised, waiting to find some mistake so they can then lash out. Given that none of us are perfect, I often wonder where that anger comes from.

As for me, I have no problem admitting my mistakes, correcting them and vowing to never make them again. It's not a perfect answer, but it keeps me hopeful that I will someday meet my goal of putting out the perfect newspaper.

Criticism - Not a helpful word

FROM PAGE 5

I had finished a speech to the PTA parents at an elementary school about changing old negative pictures.

"That 'perfect' thing you talked about, Jerry," Paul said. "About how it's a set up for frustration and never being satisfied or feeling good about what you do?"

"Yes."

"How can I get my son to make his bed, and do it right? He never seems to get it right."

"How old is he?"

"Eight."

"Have you ever asked him to show you what he thinks is making the bed right?" I asked.

Paul looked stunned.

"No, I never thought of that."

"What would happen if you asked him to show you what's right for him. Then, if needed, you might make a couple of suggestions offering 'secret tips' on bed making," I said. "Get the picture? You're not criticizing, complaining, discouraging him, you're putting the deal on him and he's feeling in charge."

"That's sensational. Thanks."

Getting back to Jake and his daughter. I can't think of one damn reason to keep criticism in our vocabulary.

Wouldn't it be terrific if Jake suggested that she throw the word "criticism" out of her vocabulary? Wouldn't it be terrific, if you threw it out?

Change your life in a powerful, positive way. When your old picture immediately kicks in and you think you're being "criticized"—stop. Take action and tell yourself that you are hearing a complaint, comment or observation.

If, in the case of Jake's daughter, she did a poor job, she accepts that "observation" and vows to do it better. If she honestly did her best, she says that and perhaps even asks for suggestions.

A lot of us grew up with baggage that got heavier and heavier. That doesn't mean we can't lighten the load.

Throwing the word "criticism" out of your life might just help. And, it's a terrific way to start a New Year.

Jerry's book "Life is a Joke and God Wrote it" can be ordered through www.jerrystanecki.com or P.O. Box 121, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.

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Local fire chief heats up musical scene

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Thursday evening at Andiamo's restaurant in Dearborn is jumping with activity: Drinks are flowing, waiters and waitress are bustling, patrons enjoy cuisine and stimulating conversation, and the house band serves up a lively jazz and rhythm and blues mix.

As glasses and dishes clank, First Rate takes the stage. Mike Moore, an award-winning guitarist and recording engineer begins his second job only hours after his shift as chief of the Inkster Fire Department has

ended.

The band First Rate – with four of seven members on stage – opens the set with the bluesy concoction *That's the Way Love Goes*. The song, recorded by Janet Jackson in 1993, reached number 11 on the Billboard chart.

On this night, Moore has taken the stage with vocalists Nikki Pearse and Ray Ward.

"I joined this band about two years ago, and it's been great," Moore said before he fired up his guitar. "But here, there isn't enough room for the whole band."

The live performances, Moore

said, are the culmination of an odyssey that has brought him full circle in terms of his musical career. And it is a career – the fire chief will not disclose his income as a musician and recording engineer, but admits that it is substantial.

Moore learned about music in the 1960s at the feet of his older brother, Don, a studio musician and trumpet player. He started playing drums, but turned in his sticks in favor of a guitar when he was about 14 years old. It has been his instrument of choice ever since.

Mary Moore said that around the time her son picked up the guitar she started to see inherent musical talent in her young sons and another friend, Inkster resident Tim Williams.

"They used to practice in the garage," she said. "I took (Michael) for lessons just to teach him the basics, and he pretty much taught himself everything else. But a few years later, I remember listening to them and thinking they were really good."

Moore, Williams, and other friends would play school events and eventually college parties in the years that followed. Eventually, another local musician, the late Michael Dozier, took Moore under his wing and helped the teenager refine his playing. He still credits Dozier for helping him turn a hobby into a career.

"He was an incredible musician – easily one of the best in the area," he said.

The association with Dozier led to session work. Soon, Moore

found himself working on commercials for MichCon, Sunny Delight and Budweiser. In 1980, he met Mike Iacopelli, the owner of the now-defunct United Sound recording studio in Detroit. There, he learned the basics of sound engineering.

In 1987, the highlight of his musical career occurred when music producer Don Davis asked Moore, who was scheduled to engineer the Jackie Wilson classic *Lonely Teardrops* for the Ritchie Valens biopic *La Bamba*, to play the guitar for the recording session. The soundtrack for the film has sold more than 2 million copies to date, according to *Billboard* magazine.

As a songwriter, Moore and a partner, Garon "News" Smith, have also published more than 50 songs.

As session work with music legends like Aretha Franklin, Rolling Stones' guitarist Ron Wood, Anita Baker and Deniece Williams continued, live performances took a back seat, Moore said.

But all of that changed two years ago when one of the founding members of First Rate stopped playing.

"It had been a long time since I had played live, but I was a regular substitute (with First Rate)," Moore said. "I was a little nervous (to play live again), but now I really enjoy it."

Moore cites Earth, Wind and Fire steel guitarist Al McKay and Motown session guitarists Eddie Williams and Robert White as influences on his music. But his undisputed hero is guitar legend

George Benson.

Often times, as he's going about completing the truckload of paperwork bestowed on a fire chief, he is seated at his desk, next to his guitar. Softly playing in the background is a tape of Benson's music.

"Not long ago I was playing at Andiamo's, and this guy was just staring at me . . . after the first set, he came up to me, and he told me that I sounded like George Benson," Moore said. "I thought to myself, 'C'mon, I can play, but not like George Benson.' But it did make my day."



Inkster Fire Chief Mike Moore takes to the stage with vocalists Nikki Pearse and Ray Ward.

Counselor offers help dealing with grief at holidays

Although the holiday season is a joyous time of year, for those who have lost loved ones it can be quite difficult, according to Angela Morris at Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

"Losing a loved one is always hard, no matter when it happens," said Morris. "But around the holidays, the grief can become worse and more difficult to manage."

For this reason, the employees at Crane Funeral Home recently attended a symposium at Oakland

Community College entitled, "The Good Death, Good Grief and Good Funerals".

According to Morris, families go through similar patterns of grief, just in different ways.

"Everyone deals with loss differently," she said. "And that is OK, it is healthy to grieve."

"A good portion of what we do is dealing with the grief," she said. "Truthfully, what we do most is listen. It helps people to talk and we are here to listen as long as they

need us."

Crane also provides the services of Wes Baldwin, a licensed practicing counselor.

"Certain days throughout the year are very difficult for those who have lost someone – birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day," he said. "These days can compound feelings of loss, anxiety, loneliness and hurt. What's so difficult about Christmas is that it's not just one day. The Christmas season starts in mid-November.

That makes for six – eight tough weeks."

Baldwin provides grief after care counseling through his office in Harper Woods, as well as through a dozen local funeral home, including Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

Crane also offers group-counseling sessions on the second Sunday of each month to help people work through their grief.

For more information call, (734) 941-9200

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Foundation works to rebuild farm

Scott Spielman
Editor

Shari Peters, executive director of the Northville Community Foundation, said she hopes to have more big announcements soon regarding the future of the farm at Maybury State Park.

The farm, located off Eight Mile Road west of Beck Road in Northville Township, was a popular attraction at the park before the farm burned down in a fire in February, 2002.

The fire destroyed both barns at the 11-acre site as well as virtually all the animals that lived there, and sparked a community grass root efforts to generate funds to rebuild it, according to Peters.

The foundation, which serves several non-profit and charitable organizations throughout the

*"We want all the communities
to take part in this.
It's not just a Northville thing."*

Shari Peters

Northville area, had already been involved with the site, she said. She and officials from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had been discussing the possibility of the foundation taking over the fundraising efforts to save the farm, which had been operating at a deficit.

Those negotiations started in late 2002, and were finalized last year, she said.

The 15-year agreement was signed in August, with an option

for another 15 years. It stipulates that the state still owns the land and the foundation will lease it; the rent will be the ongoing operation of the farm.

Since then, the foundation has undertaken a fundraising effort to generate at least \$1 million for an endowment to provide funding for the ongoing operation of the farm.

"This is a multi-community event," she said. "We want all the communities to take part in this. It's not just a Northville thing."

She said she's received letters of support, encouragement and donations from communities throughout southeastern Michigan.

Signs have appeared throughout the Northville community depicting the fundraising effort, and how far the foundation has come toward the goal.

Some of the signs, however, didn't last too long, Peters said. The ones installed along Eight Mile Road in front of the site vanished, apparently stolen.

"I don't know who would want to do such a thing, but apparently someone did," she said.

Peters announced a major piece of the rebuilding effort in December - an antique barn, dilapidated but structurally sound, was donated to the effort by the Toll Brothers building company, who also offered to transport and rebuild the barn on the site.

That sparked the 'Buy a board, build a barn, leave a legacy' campaign which is the first organized fundraiser the foundation organized for the effort. Donors can pay \$250 and have their name inscribed on a wall of donors commemorating the many people who helped the rebuilding effort.

"We're hoping to raise a lot of money with this," Peters said.

The foundation continues to look for other donations, as well, whether financial, structural or animal in nature. Anyone interested in getting involved can call the foundation at (248) 374-0200.



The Northville Community Foundation has put up signs reminding the community of the ongoing effort to rebuild and replenish the living farm at Maybury State Park.

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SPORTS



Plymouth Whalers' David Liffiton (right) battles with London Knights' Dylan Hunter along the boards last Saturday night. London won the game, 3-2, with less than a minute left in the game.

Whalers fall to Ice Dogs, 4-3, in OT

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers slipped against the Mississauga Ice Dogs and fell in overtime, 4-3. Their third overtime loss this season dropped them into second place in the West division, two games behind the Sarnia Sting.

Ryan Stokes scored his second goal of the season for Mississauga at 3:43 in the overtime to put the game away at 4-3. Brad Efthimou and Tom Zanoski recorded assists on the game-winning goal.

It only took the Ice Dogs 57 seconds to take an early 1-0 lead. Efthimou put the puck past Whalers' goalie Paul Drew with an assist from Danny Revelle. Ryan Ramsay knotted the score at 16:36 in the first with an assist by Dan Collins and the period ended tied at 1-1.

Plymouth broke loose in the second with two goals to take the lead. Jordan Grant recorded his third goal of the season to put the Whalers up by a goal, 2-1. John Mitchell notched the lone assist on the play. Collins extended the lead to 3-1 at 16:45 in the period. Ramsay and John Vigilante assisted on the goal.

Plymouth was hounded by the Ice Dogs, who in the third period scored two goals to send the game into overtime. Chris Curran scored the first goal to bring them within one at 11:54 and Chad Painchaud added to the board to tie the game at 15:16.

Drew stopped 46 shots in the game and earned was named the star of the game for Plymouth.

Whalers 2, London 3

The depleted Plymouth Whalers jousted with the London Knights and fell 3-2 in their bout Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Compuware Sports arena.

The Whalers roster was reduced to just 18 guys due to injury and illness. They were without top players such as Ramsay, James Wisniewski and Drew in the line up. They were also missing James Neal and Tony Iaquinto.

Plymouth was able to put up a

good fight despite the lack of depth, though.

The Knights took an early 1-0 lead at the 11:19 point of the first period with a goal by Trevor Kell. Assists went to Robbie Drummond and Josh Beaulieu. The Whalers' Grant tied the game four minutes later with his second goal of the season. Mike Martinelli and Gino Pisellini recorded the assists.

London moved ahead in the second period at 17:37 with a goal by Scott Sheppard, assisted by Daniel Bois. The second period ended with London in the lead with a score of 2-1.

Mitchell, with assists from David Liffiton and Vigilante, knotted the score 2-2 for Plymouth. With only 40 seconds left in regulation, Dennis Wideman sunk the Whalers with his 11th goal of the season to give the Knights 3-2 victory. Danny Syvret and Sheppard notched the assist on the winning goal.

Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie kept the Whalers in the game. He was faced with 46 shots on the night and managed to turn away 43 of them.

Whalers 3, Spitfires 4

Nie's performance against London was similar to Drew's performance against cross-river rivals the Windsor Spitfires last Thursday night at the Windsor Arena.

Drew faced 47 shots and steered 43 of them away but that wasn't enough and the Whalers were burned 4-3 by the Spitfires.

Windsor jumped on the board first with two late goals in the first period. Rob Hennigar put the puck past Drew at 13:56 with assists recorded by Craig Kennedy and Mike Weber. David Lomas, assisted by Brett Liscomb and Cam Janssen, made it 2-0 with a power-play score at 17:14. Zack Shepley was in the box for the Whalers to give Windsor the man advantage.

Liffiton returned the favor and cut into Windsor's lead with a power-play goal at 18:24. Mitchell and Vigilante recorded the assists. The Spitfires' Janssen

was in the box for interference at the time of the goal.

Kennedy scored to put Windsor up 3-1 with 30 seconds left in the period. The Whalers were a man short again when Drew was penalized for high sticking. John Scott Dickerson and Hennigar assisted the play.

Plymouth caught up in the second period with a full-strength goal by Martinelli at 7:27. Iaquinto and Vernelli recorded assists. Sean Thompson scored his fourth goal of the season on a power play to knot the game, 3-3, at 16:19 in the second. Richard Power assisted on the tying goal.

Windsor put the game away with a goal by Dickson at 3:44 in the third with assists by Kennedy and Hennigar.

Whalers 5, Spirit 1

Plymouth took the spirit out of Saginaw with a 5-1 victory last Wednesday night at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

Nie had another solid game and stopped 32 shots. He faced a penalty shot that went wide of the net. A Plymouth player was called for closing his hand on the puck while in the crease but Saginaw's Nick Lees missed the shot.

Power scored his first goal of the season to put the Whalers up 1-0 at 14:06 in the first period. Mitchell and Vaclav Meidl assisted on the lone goal of the first period.

Lees tied the game 4:50 into the second period with assists going to Jesse Gimblett and Justin McCutcheon. Meidl scored 22 seconds later to move Plymouth ahead 2-1. Mitchell and Neal registered the assists.

The Whalers had a great second period and score three goals to put the game away, 5-1.

Plymouth played the Windsor Spitfires at home on Monday but the results were unavailable for this edition. They will play at Owen Sound on New Year's Day, then home against the Geulph Storm on Saturday and at Saginaw on Sunday.

Lions and Tigers and Bears, oh my!

Tigers, Chiefs, Vikings, Mustangs, Eagles, Rocks, Zebras, Rockets, Wildcats...

These are just some of the nicknames of high school teams that I have covered during the last two seasons. Most of them are strong, fearsome names designed to show the schools' competitive side.



There are a few questionable names such as the Salem Rocks and the Wayne Memorial Zebras that, after further thought, do make sense. Although inanimate, Rocks are grounded and tough and if pushed can roll over opponents. Zebras are fast wild and untamed creatures, which are fitting characteristics for competitive athletics. However, the blue and gold school colors still miff me - I can see maybe black and white - you know, for Zebras.

I was prepared to rip on Plymouth High School because they're the new kids on the block in the area, but I decided I should go easy on them since they don't even have a junior class yet. But, on second thought, I think I'll let them have it - being a new school without tradition or namesake they had the opportunity to choose a nickname that no other school, or very few schools, would have. Instead they chose the name that 22 other Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) member schools had picked - Wildcats.

Not that there's anything wrong with Wildcats, but it is a little overused. However, it's not the most used name in the MHSAA. The Bulldogs and Vikings name come in just above the Wildcats with 26 teams each that share the names. The Panthers had 28 schools that used the name. And, drum role please, the No.1 most used name in high school sports, with 46 teams sharing the honor is...the Eagles. Sorry, Romulus.

Titans, Chargers, Spartans, Warriors, Cavaliers...

Although these names are overused, at least they are respectable and sensible, unlike others. During my perusing of the MHSAA member school listing I found some very unique, confusing and funny names that I thought the should be shared with the rest of you.

It all started when the Canton Chiefs played Ann Arbor Huron in basketball on Dec. 16. My curiosity got the best of me and I wanted to use Huron's nickname as a part of the story. Much to my surprise I discovered that they were, of all things, the River Rats.

Just one question came to mind. Why? At least they specified what kind of rat; while Algonac whittled it down to Muskrats where as Holland Black River High School's name is just, plain and simple, the Rats.

Bears, Cougars, Bobcats, Falcons, Wolves, Hawks...

Most schools choose names that make them sound like a fearsome competitor, except the Bloomfield Hills Academy that chose the ever-popular Gazelles as their name and mascot. I don't know about you, but in any National Geographic show that I've ever seen the poor gazelles are being tormented by the more savage lions. I don't understand the Gaylord St. Mary's Snowbirds either and I'm still not quite certain what exactly a Bearcat (Bridgeport, Battle Creek Central) is - but it sounds dangerous. It could be the split personality though - opposing teams never know who's going to show up, the bear or the cat.

I'm still trying to figure out what Speedboys (Bessemer), Jungaleers (Detroit Southeastern), Modeltowners (Gwinn), Hematites (Ishpeming), Wykons (Stambough West Iron County) and Chix (Zeeland) are. But beware they may be hitting a field or court near you.

While you are at it, watch out for the ferocious Terriers (Litchfield) and the Mules (Temperence Bedford) - please insert any jackass comment here. There were still the Colon Magi, Gladwin Flying G's, Goodrich Martians, Hamtramck Cosmos, Houghton Gremlins, Merrill Vandals, Midland Chemics and Mt. Clemens Battling Bathers that earned chuckles and a bit of head scratching.

Bathers? That's something I would have expected from Bath High School, which, actually, uses the name Fighting Bees.

The Kinsford Flivvers received a furrowed brow and a trip to the dictionary. A flivver is slang for a small, cheap automobile, according to the New American Webster Dictionary.

But, my hat goes off to Watersmeet for the most unique, not to mention self-degrading, name - the Nimrods. Once again I could only ask myself, why? Actually, Nimrod was a Babylonian king and in some dictionaries it means fierce hunter. But, I think, most of us today look at it as a demeaning perjorative.

However, ranking at the top of my all-time worse Michigan high school name list would have to be the Fighting Irish. Not because I'm against the Irish. But because I'm a University of Michigan graduate, I tend to hold a grudge against Notre Dame and anything 'Fighting Irish.' At least there weren't any teams named after the Buckeyes.

Canton Chiefs vault past Vassar in annual meet

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs vaulted past another opponent during the holiday break when they traveled up to Vassar and won the dual meet there, 139-115.

Jessi Bates was top gymnast in the all-around with a total score of 35.30. She placed third in the vault with a score of 8.7 and took second place on the uneven bars with an 8.55 tally. Bates also landed in second in the balance beam with a 9.15 score and placed third on the floor competition with an 8.9.

Kate Staley finished in first place on the floor with a 9.05, second place on vault with an 8.9, third on the bars with a score of 8.35. She tied with Audra Ahern for third on the balance beam with an 8.25. Her four places and a total score of 34.55 was enough to earn her second place in the all-around behind Bates. Ahern also placed second

in the floor routine with an 8.95 score.

Alyssa Kelley earned three first places, which included two scores above a nine. She finished at the top of the vault with a 9.35 and took first in the balance beam with a 9.2. She also finished ahead of the competition on the uneven bars with a score of 8.8. She was held out of the floor competition, which may have placed her in the all-around.

Both Kelley and Megan Chappo were held out of the floor competition because of bad backs, according to Canton coach John Cunningham.

He said the foam floor at Vassar would not have been good for their backs.

The victory over Vassar came without some of Canton's top gymnasts, like Kara Ahern and Mina Pirzadeh, who were both out due to illness. Their absences opened the way for other gymnasts on the deep roster to shine though, Cunningham said.

Heather Wagner placed fourth on the vault with an 8.55 and fifth on the bars. Mozhdah Rajaei placed fourth on the uneven bars with a 7.6 score; Janelle Hudek placed fifth in floor competition and sixth on the balance beam; and Lauren Foley placed fourth on floor with an 8.65.

"In general I'm very pleased," Cunningham said. "For a lot of kids it was their first trip and they did very good, considering the conditions. Vassar is a small school and as much as I don't like to say it, we were expected to win. So, when I discovered some girls were sick, I was still comfortable going in."

The victory improved Canton's record to 2-0 in dual meets. Their first win was against a tough rival Northville team on Dec. 17.

They will take a break from competition until school resumes from the holiday break. Their first meet of the New Year will be against neighboring rivals the Salem Rocks on Monday, Jan. 5.

Canton ends losing streak, beats Hartland, Northern

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs ended their five-game losing streak on the frozen pond and got back on track with two wins before they broke for the holidays.

The still-injured Chief team pulled out a 3-0 victory over Hartland on Friday night to give their overall record a boost to 3-5.

Senior goaltender Chris Garrett steered away 26 shots to record the shutout for Canton.

The first period remained scoreless but the Chiefs broke the game open in the second

period, where they scored all three of their goals. Junior forward Reese McCabe scored at the 13:31 mark to give them the first goal and senior forward Matt Oliver recorded the assist.

At 3:55 in the second, senior defenseman Brett Baker put the puck into Hartland's net to extend their lead 2-0. Oliver and junior forward Garrett Hyman notched the assists. Sophomore forward Kevin Tollison scored the final goal for Canton at 1:23 in the second with an assist by older brother and senior forward Kyle Tollison. Brian Wioncek added the other assist on the finishing goal.

It was a really great defensive effort. The best offense is a good defense.

Canton Coach Jim Wheaton

Garrett held off Hartland in the third to record his first shutout of the year.

"It was really a great defensive effort," Canton coach Jim Wheaton said. "The best offense is a good defense."

The Chiefs put together the win even though a depleted roster is still recovering from

injuries. Three players remained scratched in Friday night's game with a wrist and back injury and junior goalie Tony Hylko is still recuperating from a grade-three concussion he suffered against Walled Lake Central on Dec. 10.

Despite the injuries the Chiefs buried the Walled Lake Northern team 12-2 last

Wednesday. The win was their first since they beat the Fighting Irish from Notre Dame Prep School in the opening game of the season.

Wheaton said that it was nice to get the two wins before the holiday break and he hopes injuries will have a chance to heal up before they hit the ice to play three games in four days when they return.

Their first game of the New Year will be at home against Chelsea on Jan. 7 and travel on the road to play Livonia Stevenson on Jan. 9 and remain on the road to play at St. Mary's High School on Jan. 10.

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Eagles place 2nd at Salem meet

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Romulus Eagles wrestling team had two wrestlers place at the Salem High School Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

That's not too bad considering the flu and vacations only allowed Romulus Head Coach Jason Balcom to take eight of 14 wrestlers. There they battled against teams such as Salem, Redford Union, Greenfield, Livonia Franklin, Novi and East Detroit.

"Overall they wrestled pretty well," he said. "A couple guys wrestled out of their weight class because we were shorthanded. There's a lot of improvements to make. There are a lot of young guys but they're

getting better."

Matt Mortzfield placed third in the 135-pound weight class and Tim Lewis finished in fifth place at 130 pounds. Joe Lewis went 2-2 in the 103-pound weight class.

Due to the absences, some wrestlers were moved around in the lineup or new ones were added to it. Robbie Ray was moved up from 112 to 119 and Tony Glimps was brought up from the junior varsity team to wrestle at 112.

Glimps ended the day 2-2. John Studstell hit the mat for the first time this season at 1440 pounds and went 2-2 at the tournament.

"It was a pretty low-key day for us because we were missing so many guys," Balcom said.

Request for Proposal

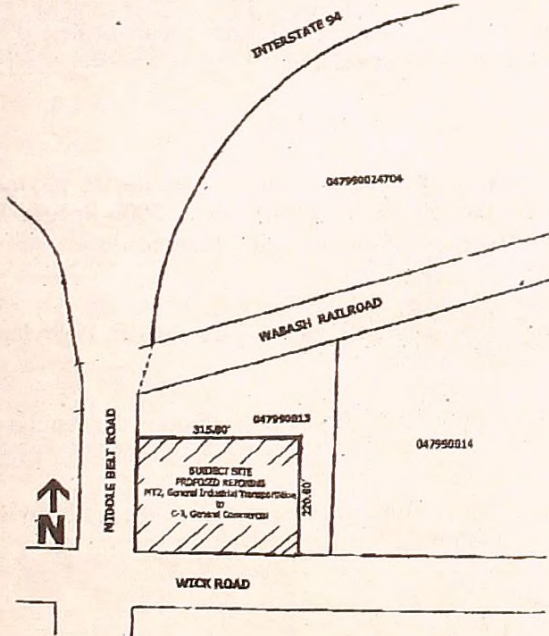
The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees and the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) are seeking proposals for the preparation of site plan documents, architectural/engineering documents and construction budgets for the design of two (2) Township Fire Stations in the Township. Van Buren Township is a rapidly growing community located at the western boundary of Wayne County, Michigan. The intent of this request is to develop a list of 5-6 eligible candidates for review and selection by the Board of Trustees and the DDA. Interested parties must demonstrate their experience in public safety/fire department construction and government capital improvement projects. The proposals are due at 5:00 p.m., January 8, 2004 and shall be delivered to the Van Buren Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. Those parties selected will be asked to present their proposals to both the Township Board of Trustees and the DDA at a Special Meeting to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2004 at the Township Hall. Information and questions can be submitted in writing to Bryce Kelley, Director of Planning & Economic Development, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, 734-699-8913 or bkelley@vanburen-mi.org.

Publish: December 31, 2003

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 192 1, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, for the purpose of considering a proposed amendment to the Zoning Map. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to rezone approximately 1.59+- acres located on a portion of DP#, 82-80-047-99-0013-000, from MT-2, Industrial Transportation 2 District to C-3, Highway Business District. The subject site is located on the northeast corner of Middlebelt and Wick Roads. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 21, 2004, and should be addressed to Cynthia L. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan gm

Publish: December 31, 2003

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Van Buren Township, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, will be holding public hearings in order to receive comment and suggestions from residents of the community on the possible use of the Township's 2004-2005 Community Development Block Grant funds. The estimated funding level for the 2004-2005 CDBG Budget year is \$153,000.

The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities which further national objectives. These objectives are:

- To assist low and moderate-income persons
- To address slum or blight conditions
- To meet a particularly urgent community development need

Some past projects in Van Buren Township have included: removal of ADA barriers in public facilities, purchase of fire equipment, senior citizen programs, ADA playground equipment, planning and design of community areas, demolition of unsafe structures, housing rehabilitation, and administration.

A Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road. Written and verbal comments will be received and taken into consideration. The deadline for input from residents via letter or telephone for possible projects is Friday, January 20, 2004. The Township Board will recommend eligible projects to Housing and Urban Development for funding and approval.

Publish: December 31, 2003

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CITY OF ROMULUS CHAPTER 33, ARTICLE VII

An Ordinance to amend the Subdivision Control Ordinance, Chapter 33, by the establishment of Article VII, to provide for a six (6) month Moratorium on Residential Construction.

THE CITY OF ROMULUS ORDAINS:

- Section 1. **SHORT TITLE:** This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Amended Subdivision Control Ordinance.
- Section 2. **Moratorium On Residential Construction.**
- To provide time sufficient to analyze current zoning standards in conjunction with the updating of the City's Master Plan and, in particular, to address those standards' ability to protect the rural character and large tract size of low residential density lands within the City, identified as lands lying between the Eastern Boundary of CSX Railroad, the Southern boundary of Pennsylvania Road, the Western Boundary of Hannan Road, and the Northern Boundary of Wabash Road (as identified by the map included in a Study Session, held on April 22, 2003), the City of Romulus hereby places a six (6) month Moratorium on new residential construction on those lands which have not already been platted.
- Section 3. **Effective Date.**
- This six (6) month Moratorium shall begin on December 8, 2003, as carried by Emergency Council Resolution on that date pursuant to City Charter §7.31(b) and shall end June 8, 2004.
- Section 4. Any person with property within lands affected by this Moratorium, as delineated herein, and who opposes the application of the Moratorium, as to his or her property, shall have the right to present information and arguments and otherwise be heard before City Council.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance duly adopted and accorded emergency status by Resolution 03-506 by the Romulus City council at its regular meeting held on the 8th day of December, 2004

ATTEST: Alan Lambert, Mayor

Within forty-five (45) days after the publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance continuing in effect. Said petition shall contain the text of such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six percent (6%) of the registered electors registered at the last preceding election at which a Mayor of the City was elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

INTRODUCED: 12-09-03
ADOPTED: 12-08-03
PUBLISHED: 12-31-03

Belleville Tigers overcome deficit, beat Deporess, 48-44

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Tigers fought their way back from a 10-point deficit to beat Detroit Deporess 48-44 in their meeting on Saturday.

Belleville had the lead at 14-13 to close out the first quarter but Deporess held them to six points in the second and scored 13 to take a 26-20 lead at the half, according to Belleville coach Mike Krogel. The Tigers fell

behind by 10 points as the third quarter came to a close, but Andre Olden made a three point play to bring them within seven to end the quarter.

Belleville outscored Deporess 19-8 in the fourth to walk away with the 48-44 win.

"It was a different kind of game than I anticipated," said Belleville coach Mike Krogel. "We usually play man-to-man coverage but we were short-handed and we played zone and so did they – it was a lot slower paced

game."

"We got on a roll in the fourth and ended up pulling it out," he added.

In the fourth the Tigers went on a 13-3 rampage to take a 42-39 lead, which was enough to carry the victory.

"We got out of the zone a little bit – into man-on-man," he said. "We pressed them and got some turnovers and made some shots. The kids played hard the whole game."

Matt Miller led the Tigers with

15 points. Tyler Jones and KaRon Gaines each scored 11 points. Olden knocked in 9 points, including the momentum-turning three point play that finished the third quarter. Jones and Olden also recorded 7 rebounds each in the game.

The win moved Belleville to 3-1 overall with other wins against Plymouth Salem and River Rouge. The Tigers' only loss came against the Western Lakes league team-to-beat Wayne Memorial.

Their schedule doesn't get any

easier once the New Year starts, though. They will play Dearborn and Monroe on the road. Monroe was one of Belleville's three losses last year but the Tigers took some revenge when they beat them in the regional finals.

The real test will be against Ronald Coleman and the Mega league team-to-beat the Romulus Eagles on Jan. 23 in Romulus. Coleman, along with teammate Jarrett Smith, recently signed a letter of intent to play ball for the University of Michigan.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD DECEMBER S. 2003 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174,

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak.
Absent: None.

Excused: William Wadsworth.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-499

2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held December 1, 2003.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. None.

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairman's Report

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-500

5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Romak to concur with Mayor Lambert and appoint Reverend Edward Thomas to the, Property Disposition Committee to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of John Roundtree with his term to expire on January 25, 2004,

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-501

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to authorize payment to the Michigan Municipal League for the 2004 annual membership dues in the amount of \$7,646.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-502

6A. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller to forward a resolution to United States Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, State Senator Raymond Basham, Congressman John Dingell, and the Federal Railroad Administration, Governor Jennifer Granholm, and State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopwood, that railroad equipment, including use of remote control locomotives, is known to present significant danger to persons and property from collisions, derailment and possible release of hazardous materials; and that Romulus City Council requests the Federal Railroad Administration to conduct a comprehensive and thorough review of the safety of remote control locomotives to ensure that the safety and well being of the citizens of Romulus will not be jeopardized by the use of such devices.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-503

6B1. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Romak to rescind resolution 03-456 (authorization of conveyance of the city's interest in property known as Lot 31, Jones Suburban Subdivision, Liber 69, Page 83, Parcel #015 01 0031 000 to Barbara Fowler in the amount of \$205.00).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-504

6B2. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Miller to concur with the recommendation of City Assessor, Julie Albert, and authorize the conveyance of the city's interest in property known as Lot 31, Jones Suburban Subdivision. Liber 69, Page 83, Parcel #015 01 0031 000 to Barbara Fowler, at no cost to Mrs. Fowler.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-505

7A. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller amend the Subdivision Control Ordinance, Chapter 33, Article VII to place for a six (6) month Moratorium on new Residential Construction on lauds which have not already been platted; to protect the rural character and large tract size of low residential density lands within the City, identified as lands lying between the Eastern Boundary of CSX Railroad, the Southern Boundary of Pennsylvania Road, the Western Boundary of Hannan Road, and the Northern Boundary of Wabash Road subject to corporate counsel review.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-506

7B. Motion by Miller, supported by Romak to declare that an emergency exist and to introduce, adopt, and give immediate effect to Chapter 33, Article VII an Ordinance amending the Subdivision Control Ordinance by placing a six (6) month Moratorium on new residential construction on lands not already platted in the area bounded by Wabash Road, CSX Railroad., Pennsylvania Road, and Hannan Road. Said Moratorium shall become effective on December 8, 2003, and shall end on June 8, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-507

11A. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Romak to authorize payment of Warrant 03-23 in the grand total amount of Four Hundred Nine Thousand, Four Hundred Nine Dollars and Eighteen Cents (\$409,409.18).

Roll Call. Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller,, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None, Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-508

11B. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Crova to authorize payment of Warrant 03-23E (election worker payroll for the December 2, 2003 Special Election) in the grand total amount of Twelve Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy Five Dollars, and No Cents (\$12,875.00).

Roll Call Vote Slowing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Romak, supported by Prybyla to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held December 8, 2003.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 31, 2003

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
& w Cemetery Plots
05. Personals
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
31. Help Wanted Sales

32. Help Wanted
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music Lessons
45. Art Lessons
46. Private Instruction
47. Schools
50. Pets & Supplies

54. Poultry - Livestock
55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
56. Animal Feed
57. Antiques
58. Flea Markets
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business with Office & Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

65. Tree Service
66. Fuel
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Christmas Trees
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Snowmobiles
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Aircraft

82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Garages for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business with Property
104. Farms with Acreage
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake with Resort
109. Income with Property
110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property

112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Handicapped Vehicles
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

4. Monuments & Cemetery Lots

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6. Legal-Notices

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January 20, 2004 on
the contents of the
following units; at 1 p.m.
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hendershott= Lawn
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car parts, Boxes
C 1-20 = Lance Hawkins=
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mattress, lamp, tool box

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2 Door - 03-13041
1991 Dodge Caravan
2B4GK5533MR117718
Sta. Wag. - 03-13051
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1L69G9S122876
4 Door - 03-13054
1989 Chevrolet
1G1BN51E3KR113059
4 Door - 03-13252
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1MECM50UXNG645902
4 Door - 03-13317
1995 Ford Escort
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Sta. Wag. - 03-13318
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4 Door - 03-13433
1997 Pontiac Grand Am
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4 Door - 03-12747
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Pickup - 03-12750
1991 Chevrolet
1G1JC14G7M7122417
2 Door - 03-12767
1983 Pontiac Grand Prix
2G2AJ37A9D2222434
2 Door - 03-12830

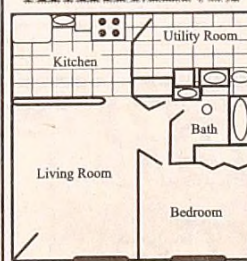
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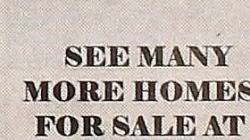
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